The estimated increased availability of washed coal will be to the tune of 28 million tonnes per annum when these washeries get fully operational.

**Indian help to Chinese coal sector**

7594. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has sought the help of Government of India to develop some coal mining projects in that country;

(b) if so, the details of the help sought by China in that regard;

(c) whether the probability of such collaboration has been discussed;

(d) if so, the decision taken thereon; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the 2nd meeting of Indo-China Working Group on Coal held in December 1994, the Indian side offered expertise in Planning and Designing of Opencast projects and also supply of opencast equipment for development of opencast mines in China. The Chinese side had welcomed the idea.

(c) to (e) Pursuant to the above decision a Chinese delegation visited India during April, 1995 to discuss this proposal further with concerned Indian organisations. The Crinese side has been requested to identify a suitable site and provide geological data to Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited.

**Production of coal in Mahanadi coalfields**

7595. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanadi coalfields Ltd. (MCL) had taken steps to increase coal production from its mines;

(b) if so, the performance of MCL during last three years;

(c) the target set by MCL for coal production during the remaining years of the Eighth Plan; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Production of coal in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) during the last three years was as below:

(In million tonnes)

| | |
|---|---|
| 1992-93 | 23.14 |
| 1993-94 | 24.30 |
| 1994-95 | 27.32 (provisional) |

(c) and (d) The target of coal production set for MCL during the remaining years of Eighth Plan are as follows:

(In million tonnes (Date Provisional)

| | |
|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 30.75 |
| 1996-97 | 35.00 |

**Investment of coal sector**

7596. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is order of investment in coal sector for the current year with sources of funding for major projects, company-wise with production targets;

(b) whether the coal sector facing acute resource crunch for developing new mine and modernising existing mines;

(c) if so, specific steps taken/proposed to mobilised adequate resources to meet the production of coal;